

CC 2 : FEB 21/52
114 : Feb 1952
DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT A U S T R I A
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March 4, 1952 (P/23612)

SUBJECT: Dr. Wilhelm HÖTTL

Time : March 2, 1952, and February 27, 1952

Received: March 4, and February 28, 1952

CC 2 and HH 1 independently

1. CC 2 met HÖTTL at Salzburg on February 27. HÖTTL claimed that he had just arrived from INNSBRUCK (CC 2 considers it possible that HÖTTL however came from MUNICH, where he could have met Karl RÖDER).

HÖTTL informed CC 2 that he is in contact with Bonn intelligence, however acting only as an intermediary in arranging new contacts. x)

HÖTTL further stated that Harry MAST had recently been fired by Dr. Emmerich OFICZAREK allegedly upon request by G-Organization for the following reasons:

- a- being on friendly terms with HÖTTL,
- b- working for another US intelligence branch,
- c- having publicly criticized and thereby discredited G-Organization.

In connection therewith HÖTTL mentioned that he felt under obligation to pay to MAST such sums as he had received from G-Organization (approximately AS 5,000 per month), representing a comparatively low-fixed salary plus standard G-remunerations for representation, housing etc.). HÖTTL claimed that he found it difficult to raise the necessary money for MAST.

HÖTTL further stated that by misusing the name of his Nibelungen Verlag and Speck Bücherdienst respectively, a questionnaire had been distributed containing among others the following questions:

'Would you stand for a commercial Anschluss of Austria to West Germany'.

'What is your opinion on the Occupation in Austria'.

'Are you acquainted with members of the Occupation Forces, if so, give names, units, opinions, etc.'

HÖTTL claims that he immediately ordered Dr. Otto SCHOTT, manager of Nibelungen Verlag, to forward copies to both, CIC Linz and Upper Austrian Security Director Dr. Josef ROSINUTH. Hereof CIC expressed the opinion that the questionnaire was

a Communist at one time, ROSMANITH believed KERNMAYER to be the author. HÖTTL personally alleges that G-Organization had inspired and Dr. Kurt WESSELY (collaborator of OFFOZAREK) had edited the questionnaire.

2. HH 1, on March 2, 1952, had a long conversation with Erich KERNMAYER.

When discussing the Nibelungen questionnaire, KERNMAYER denied authorship, but showed highly amused about the 'excellent joke'.

KERNMAYER stated that he had been informed by Dr. MARKUS, a physician of Altmünster (a Transylvanian Saxon), who, in turn, was closely acquainted with Harry MAST (MAST held and possibly still holds a position with Linz Volksdeutsche Organization), that HÖTTL had resumed intelligence activity and was now working for Staatssekretär BLANK's Bonn secret service. In such work HÖTTL is supported by Harry MAST and Dr. Otto SCHOTT, both visit HÖTTL frequently. The Linz office of Nibelungen Verlag is used as a letter drop and meeting place with sub-agents.

KERNMAYER alleged to also have been offered such collaboration with Bonn directly, but to have declined because he was no actual intelligence expert.

KERNMAYER during such conversation informed source that Mrs. (fmu) EHN (or EHN), a former editor with Vienna 'Volkischer Beobachter', now living at GMUNDEN, collects documentary and other evidence against HÖTTL in connection with his former activity with German SD (mainly in Hungary), his endeavors during the final stage of the war to establish a KALTENBRUNNER government in Austria and Southern Germany, and HÖTTL's alleged gold treasure ('Himmler-Schatz'). Said Mrs. EHN, according to KERNMAYER, intends to publish articles and a book on such affairs.

3. Source had the impression that KERNMAYER's former friendship had turned to hatred for HÖTTL. KERNMAYER excitedly accused HÖTTL

- a- that he had perfidiously betrayed some of his former comrades (f.i. Adolf EICHMANN, now a fugitive, who had sworn to kill HÖTTL) when acting as witness at the Nuremberg war crime trials;
- b- to have willfully invented the number of 6 million nazi-killed Jews, and thereby having bought world Jewry protection;
- c- to be closely connected with leading Jews in America and to work for Jewish intelligence;
- d- to have stolen and hidden (somewhere in Salzkammergut)

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- former SD gold funds;
- e- to intrigue permanently against KERNMAYER and to publish articles with various German papers (f.i. the youth periodical of Sozialistische Reichspartei 'Fanfare') branding KERNMAYER a leftist (especially Socialist) collaborator.

Comments: x) It had been reported (P/03329, October 3, 1951) that HÖTTL's intermediary with Benn's Colonel HEINZ was Rolf RODER, 9 Ludigerstrasse, Munich, a co-editor of 'Deutsche Soldatenzeitung'. HÖTTL is representative of 'Deutsche Soldatenzeitung' for Austria, a position which he took up after severe competition especially with KERNMAYER. Colonel HEINZ seems to be BLANK's intelligence chief.

During the conversation between CC 2 and HÖTTL, the latter had mentioned that he was going to write a rough letter to G personally because of reasons given in para.1, subpara.2.

It seems probable that HÖTTL and KERNMAYER (possibly including G) will give each other considerable derogatory publicity in the near future.